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tunes, many of them the old tunes that ought never to be obsolete. We are led to notice the work for the elevated tone that pervades it. It maintains throughout, with the simplicity that befits a children's book of worship, the dignity and solemnity that belong to themes transcending the loftiest intellect. There is nothing of the namby-pamby element,—the sanctimonious baby-talk which often deforms manuals of this class. We cannot express ourselves with an emphasis adequate to our conviction, as to the wrong and harm done to the holiest sentiments of our nature by the degradation of sacred subjects of which we speak. Among the fruitful sources of juvenile profaneness, we have no hesitation in numbering the belittling associations connected with the objects of religious reverence by means of hymns, services, and addresses in which simplicity has degenerated into familiarity, and things sacred and divine have been uttered, talked of, and sung about in the dialect of the nursery and the playground. Children can understand plain and sober words grouped in simple sentences and stanzas; and if they could not, far better were it that the sentiment of reverence should be cherished by words into the meaning of which they may gradually grow, than that they should be made to feel at the outset that there is nothing in the universe too high or deep for their comprehension.

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16.—*Evidences of Christianity. Lectures before the Lowell Institute, January, 1844. Revised as a Text-Book. By MARK HOPKINS, D. D., President of Williams College. Boston: T. R. Marvin and Son. 1863. 12mo. pp. 356.*

THIS work, in its original form, has been used extensively and advantageously as a text-book in several of our principal colleges. The author has now thoroughly rewritten such portions as needed revision, and has arranged the whole with a special view to render it more serviceable as a text-book, placing at the head of each paragraph, or connected series of paragraphs, a caption indicating its contents. We prize this treatise for what it contains and for what it does not contain. The absence of irrelevant or worse than irrelevant matter in such a work, is a great merit. Most authors on the Christian evidences seize greedily on whatever can be plausibly employed as an argument, as if quantity rather than quality were to be thought of in reasoning on this most important of all subjects, on which the motto ought to be, *Non multa, sed multum.* A strong cause is not established by the accumulation of weak arguments; but it may be betrayed by the attempt to prop up with feeble subsidiary matter arguments in themselves forceful

and conclusive. Dr. Hopkins is contented with strong arguments, and he confines himself almost exclusively to such grounds of proof as occupy the same place in moral reasoning which demonstration holds in pure mathematics. He shows why Christianity *must* be true, and is at no pains to show in addition why it *may* be true. Yet more, he does not slight or undervalue any one branch of the evidences in his preference for another. Justly regarding the internal evidences of our religion as best adapted to the wants of our age and to the current forms of scepticism, he nevertheless attaches due and full weight to the mass of testimony and of exterior circumstantial and historical evidence which places the Christian Scriptures, as to their genuineness and authenticity, on absolutely impregnable ground. The work, too, is admirable on the score of its catholicity. It is our common Christianity and its records, and not his own view of its dogmas, that the author defends. The work is also worthy of high commendation for its style, — for the vigor and massiveness of its diction, for its profound solemnity, its fervor at once calm and intense, — for the glow, without the ostentation, of deep feeling and cherished personal experience that vitalizes every portion of the volume. It is no small praise, that, in a form imperfectly adapted to the purpose of class-instruction, by the side of other able treatises designed for that use, and with no effort to extend its circulation, this book has held its place in our colleges for nearly twenty years. In its present form, it cannot fail to find a larger reception, and it can hardly be superseded until some new phasis of unbelief shall demand an altered mode of treatment.

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17. — *The History of Girolamo Savonarola, and of his Times.* By PASQUALE VILLARI, Professor of History in the University of Pisa. Translated from the Italian by LEONARD HORNER, F. R. S., with the Co-operation of the Author. London: Longman, Green, Longman, Roberts, and Green. 1863. 2 vols. Small 8vo. pp. xl. and 359, 401.

THE life of Savonarola has been often written, not only in Italian, but also in German, French, and English; yet it seemed, and not without reason, to the author of these volumes, that there was still need of a thorough, accurate, and impartial memoir of him. Accordingly, after a careful study of all that had been published by previous biographers, as well as of all the original sources of information now accessible, he gave to the world a few years ago the fruits of his labors and researches in the work now brought to the notice of English readers by Mr. Leonard